leading to the location of the shops and the detection of the offenders. The Member said that the Government might follow the licensing policy recently enunciated by the Madras Government and that was, (1) to open no liquor shops in places with a population of less than 2,500 inhabitants excluding Estate labour, (2) whenever application was made for an outlying shop, to order that it should be made through the local Planters' Association and (3) to abolish all special licenses or concessions for the sale of liquor on market or festival days, and to restrict or prohibit sales on those occasions under regular licenses at the towns.

The Member, in conclusion, assured the Government that the local Planting Associations had the welfare of their Districts and inhabitants at heart and could be trusted not to refuse to recommend to Government the granting of licenses where necessary and they felt that, to the benefit of the cooly population and in the interests of the department, Government could decrease the illicit traffic and increase the revenue, with the co-operation of their Associations. They were prepared to give their fullest support to any policy of Government tending to remove the difficulties complained of and to regulate the traffic in the Planting Districts.

Dewan's reply.—The Member's suggestions will be forwarded to the Excise Commissioner for report.

20. Need for amending the Tobacco Rules dated 5th July 1913.

Mr. Nainan Aippu (Member, Trading Classes, Kottayam) explained the procedure followed in weighing tobacco for realising *melabhom* and submitted that the second weighment in the bankshall was practically useless. There would be no grievance if *melabhom* was charged on the weight actually found at the time of paying the same. But that was not the case. The Member, therefore, prayed that sections 21 and 28 of the Tobacco Rules dated 5th July 1913 be amended, so that the duty due on bales of tobacco be always levied on the weight actually found at the time of paying the *melabhom*.

Under clause xiii of Section 33 of the Rules, Coimbatore and Tinnevelly tobacco bonded in a bankshall should pay godown rent at the rate of one and a half annas per bale for one official Malayalam month or any fraction thereof. The above provision did not bring in any advantage to the merchants as was intended by the Government. The Member, therefore, suggested that, as before, a rent of two annas might be charged on each bale of Coimbatore and Tinnevelly tobacco bonded in a bankshall.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

21. Suggestions for the development of trade.

Mr. K. Koshi (Member, Trading Classes, Alleppey) said that, in Travancore, trade was only in its infancy and it was regrettable that the Government were not taking active steps for promoting the welfare of the trader. As it was highly necessary that the condition of trade should be improved substantially, with a view to the well-being of the traders in particular and of the State in general, the Member made the following proposals for the early and sympathetic consideration of Government:—

(1) A State Bank should be established with a view to help the commercial population of the State.

(2) A Chamber of Commerce calculated to promote the interests of trade should also be started on the lines of the one established in Mysore.

(3) In view to secure the maximum prices for the commodities exported from the State, the Government should appoint commercial representatives in such big centres as London, Bombay, &c., and recover the expenses on that account by levying a small commission from the merchants who carried on trade with those centres.

(4) The facilities for trade in the Alleppey Port should be enhanced in the following ways:—

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(*a*) A preventive station should be established in the sea near Alleppey to prevent thefts of articles exported from, and imported into, the several ports.

(*b*) Convenient landing ghauts should be built on the sides of the Alleppey Commercial Canal, from the Iron Bridge to the Beach.

(*c*) In the interests of trade, a bridge should be constructed at Chungum or, if the cost was considered prohibitive, an iron bridge in a north-to-south direction should be built from the existing bridge.

(*d*) The articles brought to Alleppey from Cochin and other places and those taken from Alleppey were being stolen by the boatmen. Such cases of thefts should be made directly cognisable by the Police.

(*e*) If a copra merchant had one Head office and 2 or 3 branch offices, license fees should be charged only in respect of the Head office.

(*f*) The price of paddy imported from Rangoon, Akyab, &c., had gone up considerably on account of the prohibitive shipping charges. The Government should hire one or two ships and arrange for paddy being imported in such ships. That was sure to effect a substantial reduction in the price of paddy.

(*g*) In respect of civil suits, interest was awarded in some cases at the rate of 12 per cent and in other cases at 6 per cent, from the date of the plaint to the date of judgment. Suits were on that account being prolonged needlessly. The Member prayed that a law might be enacted allowing interest at the rate of 12 per cent from the date of suit to the date of judgment. It would be to the interests of traders, if interest could be allowed at the rate of 12 per cent even subsequent to the date of judgment. If that was not possible, they should be enabled to realise interest at the rate of 12 per cent at least till the date of judgment.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

22. Some disabilities of the Trading Classes.

Mr. S. V. E. A. Manikkam Chettiyar (Member, Nominated) first spoke about the advantages to a country if its commerce were to be developed and said that Government ought to render financial aid. The local branch of the Bank of Madras was not of such great help as the people once thought ; and so the best way of affording financial relief to the people was by establishing a State Bank as in Mysore. The next suggestion of the Member was that a separate Department of Commerce should be organized to develop trade, to find out proper markets for the articles produced in the State and also to buy at moderate prices whatever things Travancore stood in need of. In his opinion, the Departments of Industries and Co-operation could be placed under one and the same officer and a journal published for disseminating useful knowledge in commercial and trading matters. In view of the vast strides Japan had made in the development of trade, a competent person might be deputed to Japan to study the subject. Another direction in which action could be taken was by establishing a Commercial Institute at Trivandrum or by offering grants-in-aid to private institutions started and conducted by competent gentlemen.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

23. Mercantile business.

Mr. Arumukhaperumal Muthuswami (Member, Trading Classes, Kottar) said that there were 15 timber depôts in Kottar, Vadasseri and other places. Large sums of money were being realized at timber auctions held six times a year in the Nagercoil and Thuckalay Depôts. Valuable timber, including royal trees, was being felled and sold as fuel which resulted in great loss both to Government and the merchants. Out of the quantity of timber sold for purposes of house-building, only one-fourth was available for such purposes, the remainder being useful only for fuel. Still, foreigners were purchasing such timber and utilising it for building purposes, thus placing local merchants at a distinct disadvantage even in regard to such timber. That there was great loss both to the Government and the public would be seen from the auction lists during the past few

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